



4/25/07

U.S. SUPREME COURT

2nd challenge to be heard this week on campaign law Snowe co-wrote

45 4/23/07
By BART JANSEN
Blethen Maine Newspapers

WASHINGTON — In 2002, Sen. Olympia Snowe helped write a landmark campaign law that attempted to close a loophole in a century-old prohibition against corporate influence in elections.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear — for the second time arguments about what sort of political broadcast advertising should be

allowed near an election.

Since the Supreme Court first upheld the law, a district court created standards that determine whether ads that actually name candidates are acceptable.

The standards were created after Wisconsin Right to Life, an advocacy group, challenged the law as an unconstitutional prohibition against lobbying Congress on issues such as judicial filibusters and abortion. Supporters included the American Civil

Liberties Union, National Rifle Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO.

The law's defenders, who include a Colby College professor, say it simply reaffirms a 1907 prohibition against corporate influence on political campaigns. The law allows advertisements that either do not name a candidate or do name who paid for the ad.

The 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Re-

PLEASE SEE CAMPAIGN A6

Campaign

from A1

form Act, however, addressed ads that criticized candidates yet only urged viewers to contact them, rather than vote against them.

The law abolished large contributions from corporations and unions to political groups that couldn't be spent on actually urging support or opposition for a candidate.

These contributions, so-called "soft money," totaled \$500 million in 2000.

Snowe's addition prevented

such groups from naming federal candidates in the month before a primary or two months before a general election.

Ads funded by campaigns or political action committees must declare who gave them money and, in exchange, can urge support or opposition.

Wisconsin Right to Life sought to air ads in 2004 that criticized lawmakers blocking the confirmation of federal judges through the use of the filibuster and urged viewers to contact Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., to express their displeasure with that action.

The group's political action committee had named Feingold's defeat a top priority.

The corporation's Indiana lawyer, James Bopp, argued that the group should be allowed to air such ads without violating the campaign law. Numerous other advocacy groups also sought court instructions for what advertising might be allowed.

"A clearly defined safe harbor solves both problems," wrote Steven Shapiro, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia didn't allow the filibuster ads in 2004. But, after the Supreme Court sent the case back, the lower court developed rules defining what would be acceptable.

Acceptable ads scrutinize leg-

islation or a candidate's voting record without urging support or opposition — or even mentioning that the target is a candidate.

Defenders of the law criticized that approach as gutting the reform law and threatened to reopen the loophole that Congress had closed for corporate and union advertising.

"As is obvious from the timing, content and context of WRTL's ads, they were designed to influence Sen. Feingold's bid for reelection and, if permitted to air, would likely have had just that effect," argued Anthony Corrado, a government professor at Colby College who studies campaign finance.

During the confirmation hearings for Justices John G. Roberts Jr. and Samuel Alito, I wrote to both of our senators – each of whom claims to support women's reproductive freedom – asking for the reasoning behind their support for these men, given their anti-choice records.

In both instances, I received non-answers.

Our senators' silence regarding last week's decision to uphold the federal abortion ban is deafening. Neither senator has expressed regret over her support for Roberts and Alito.

We now know that neither Sen. Olympia Snowe nor Sen. Susan Collins support reproductive freedom.

We won't be fooled again.

Susan Feiner
Yarmouth

PPH 4-25-07

Funds to fix jetty coming soon, residents told

PDH 4.25.07

The public should keep the pressure on Congress to act now, officials say at a Camp Ellis meeting.

By **SETH HARKNESS**
Staff Writer

SACO — Soon after her family's house on Surf Street was demolished in the Patriot's Day nor'easter, most of Maine's congressional delegation held a press conference on what was left of Tracey Hardman's lawn.

The lawmakers vowed to work together to obtain the millions of dollars needed to fix the problematic Camp Ellis breakwater, which years of studies have shown is a cause of the century-old erosion problem in this area.

Representatives of the Maine delegation repeated the pledge Tuesday night at an emergency meeting of the Saco Shoreline Commission at Wormwood's Restaurant in Camp Ellis. The meeting attracted about 150 residents seeking information on how state, federal and local governments will respond to the storm that destroyed seven homes in the neighborhood and demolished Surf Street.

On the federal level, representatives of the senators said a bill that could provide \$25 million to fund the Camp Ellis proj-

ect appears likely to pass the U.S. Senate by Memorial Day. If so, it would be the furthest advance for the legislation, the federal Water Resources Development Act, in the 25 years that residents have been lobbying for federal assistance. The House passed the measure April 19 by a vote of 394-25.

"It looks as though the stars are probably aligned to get this passed," said Bill Vail, who represented Republican Sen. Susan Collins.

Vail said work on the breakwater could begin as early as 2008, although some residents remained skeptical. Brian Margadonna of Eagle Avenue said he would like assurances that the bill won't die in committee, which has happened before.

The congressional representatives advised residents to contact their elected officials and express support for the funding.

Hardman, whose house had been in the family for four generations, said she saw the storm as an impetus that could push the bill through Congress, but not without some assistance.

"I think it's up to citizens right now," she said after the meeting. "We have to keep the pressure on."

In the short term, the federal government may also provide



Staff file photo by Jill Brady

A motorist tries to cross the flooded intersection of Seaside Avenue and Ferry Road in the Camp Ellis neighborhood of Saco on Patriot's Day. Representatives of Maine's congressional delegation attended an emergency meeting of the Saco Shoreline Commission in Camp Ellis on Tuesday.

funds to help York County residents cope with the storm's immediate damage. This depends on whether the county is declared a federal disaster area, a designation based on the extent and type of destruction.

Saco Emergency Management Director Steven Boucouvalas said there is a short window of opportunity to report damage to federal officials before they make the decision. He repeatedly urged property owners who had losses in the storm to

call the York County Emergency Management Agency in Alfred.

If federal disaster relief funds come through, Saco Public Works Director Mike Bolduc said the city intends to use the money to rebuild Surf Street. Even so, he said, the street may last only until the next nor'easter unless the cause of the erosion problem is addressed.

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Experts: BNAS reuse not

PAH 4-25-07

Development and cleanup can take place simultaneously, Brunswick officials are told.

By DENNIS HOEY
Staff Writer

BRUNSWICK — It likely will take years to document the full extent of environmental contamination at Brunswick Naval Air Station, but that should not deter Brunswick from pushing forward with reuse plans, according to experts involved with similar redevelopment efforts around the country.

"It is one of the more important issues we are dealing with and certainly one of the more complex," said Marty Wilk, chairman of the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority.

Because environmental cleanup at the air station could cost millions of dollars, members of the authority decided to host a forum on the issue Tuesday night.

They invited six panelists, including Brian Hamel, former president and chief executive officer for the Loring Development Authority; Anne Marie Dowd, who has been involved with redevelopment efforts at

Fort Devens in Massachusetts; and Bryan Olson, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 1 Superfund Section. About 30 people attended.

Officials say there are 19 superfund sites on the Brunswick base that have been in varying stages of cleanup since the mid-1990s. The base is scheduled to close in 2011.

Among some of the hazardous materials found or believed to be on the 3,200-acre installation are pesticides, asbestos, lead-based paint, petroleum products and munitions.

Steven Levesque, executive

doomed by pollution

director of Brunswick's authority, said the agency's goal is to make sure the base "is as clean as possible." The reuse plan will be crafted in concert with the environmental cleanup to make sure sensitive development such as housing is prohibited on contaminated sites.

Hamel warned that development efforts could be stalled for years without good communication between the town, the authority and environmental regulators.

Olson of the EPA cited an example where the redevelopment authority for the South

Weymouth Naval Air Station near Boston decided to design a residential community on top of a former base landfill. Olson said the plan for a village center was developed without adequate EPA input.

"We have to work together," he said.

Dowd, who serves as executive vice president of legislative affairs for MassDevelopment, said that since Fort Devens was targeted for realignment in 1991, the U.S. Army has spent more than \$140 million on environmental cleanup efforts.

That cleanup continues today

as more pockets of contamination are discovered years after military operations were scaled back to a single Army reserve center.

Fort Devens, which is spread over 4,400 acres, is now home to 80 businesses and has provided jobs for more than 4,000 people.

"You can have development going on at the same time as you have environmental cleanup," Hamel said. "If it is done right, there can be life after base closure."

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Lawmakers urged to pass pollution cuts

PPH
4.25.07

State House: Maine considers a system to charge power generators for gas emissions.

By JOHN RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — The debate about how to fight global climate change moved to the Legislature on Tuesday as lawmakers took up a proposal for Maine to join the nation's first multi-state effort to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Environmentalists and academic experts, as well as power generators and manufacturers, urged lawmakers to support the plan, which would create a pollution trading market in Maine and nine other Eastern states.

"If we are going to tackle the problem globally, we have to start with our own state," said George Jacobson, a professor at the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute, at a public hearing held by the Natural Resources and Utilities and Energy committees.

Please see **POLLUTION**, Page B2

POLLUTION

Continued from Page B1

A few opponents also weighed in, saying the plan would do little, if anything, to keep the planet from warming. Some warned that the plan could add to the cost of electricity in Maine.

The plan, negotiated by power generators, environmentalists and others, would require the owners of Maine's six largest power plants to pay for the right to release carbon dioxide — a heat-trapping byproduct of fossil fuel combustion.

The money they paid to the state would be given out in grants to promote energy efficiency and conservation.

Gov. John Baldacci has pledged to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. It is up to the Legislature to approve details of the state's plan.

Power plants in the region would trade pollution allowances, giving them an incentive to cut pollution and sell the allowances to plants that need them.

"It unleashes the power of the business community to cut costs to innovate and lead us into the future," said Thomas Tietenberg, a professor at Colby College.

Participating states would freeze power plant emissions from 2009 to 2015, then reduce them 10 percent by 2019. Emissions would otherwise increase about 25 percent over that period, officials said.

"It's the dawning of a new day in our economy," said Rep. Ted Koffman, D-Bar Harbor, a sponsor of the bill.

Koffman and others said creating a national model would give Maine and the other states an economic advantage.

"We exist in a new generation now and I believe we're ready for this bill," said Sen. Dana Dow, R-Waldoboro.

A key factor for lawmakers will be the plan's impact on electricity customers here.

Power costs are expected to rise 1 percent to 2 percent in the short term. The increase is likely to occur whether or not Maine participates, because prices here are set by neighboring states that produce more power.

Over time, advocates say, prices will fall because of efficiency improvements and lower peak demands. "This bill improves Maine's ability to manage and reduce our costs," said Michael Stoddard, a lawyer for Energy Northeast, a nonprofit environmental advocate. It also "will change and clean up the kind of power plants we use to make electricity."

A representative of Central Maine Power Co. said the company supports the goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions but opposes the Maine plan because it could raise costs for Maine customers.

"Nobody here can yet predict exactly what it's going to cost customers," said David Allen.

Allen opposed parts of the plan

that would use revenue from increased energy costs to pay for energy-efficiency programs. "It doesn't save all customers money. It may save some customers some money," he said.

Other opponents simply said the plan won't stop climate change on the global scale.

"Tell us how much global warming — this apocalyptic problem — we are preventing," said Jon Reisman, an associate professor at the University of Maine at Machias. "It's not good for Maine citizens to suggest we're going to do something about global warming when we're not."

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Tom Allen



1. APR 24 2007 7:30AM CT

American Morning
CNN-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**07:34:05 AM**] EVERYONE WHO KNOWS THE SITUATION PREDICTS A MASSACRE, A CIVIL WAR ON A VERY LARGE SCALE WITH PERHAPS MILLIONS, CERTAINLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE BEING KILLED. THAT BLOOD WILL BE ON OUR HANDS TO SOME EXTENT IF WE DON'T TRY TO SET UP THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO HAVE SECURITY AND STABILITY BEFORE WE LEAVE. WE HAD YOUR COLLEAGUE **SENATOR COLLINS** OF MAINE ON YESTERDAY. IF GENERAL PETRAEUS CAN'T FIX THE PROBLEMS IN IRAQ, IS THERE ANY REASON TO KEEP TRYING? HERE'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME.



2. APR 24 2007 9:30AM ET

General Programing 9:30AM
CSPAN2-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**09:37:03 AM**] THINKS. VERY HELPFUL. MY TIME IS UP, **SENATOR COLLINS**. THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. CHAIRMAN DR. REDLENER GOT TO BE ISSUED THERE WAS GOING TO BE MY FINAL QUESTION TO THIS PANEL AND THAT IS AS I LISTEN TO THE TESTIMONY, IS STRESSING THAT IT IS GOING TO BE HARD TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY THE PUBLIC SAFETY EXCEPTION OR THE HEALTH EXCEPTION TO THE TWO LAWS THAT WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING. BECAUSE YOU CAN POSSIBLY COME UP WITH ALL OF THESE SCENARIOS TO DEFINE THAT MORE PRECISELY WHICH IS WHY IT ISN'T DEFINED MORE PRECISELY. ... THANK YOU **SENATOR COLLINS** FOR THE PARTNERSHIP THAT ALLOWS US TO GO FORWARD. I DO JUST WANT TO ASK ONE OR TWO MORE QUESTIONS BECAUSE ALTHOUGH SOME OF YOUR IN YOUR OPENING STATEMENT SPOKE AS ON WHAT I AM ABOUT TO ASK IN THERE WAS A LITTLE BIT OF A RESPONSE TO THE LAST QUESTION. IT IS INTERESTING THAT WE SPEND MORE TIME TALKING TODAY ABOUT HOW TO HELP TROUBLED STUDENTS AND IDENTIFIED THEM THAN WE DID TALK ABOUT



3. APR 24 2007 9:00AM ET

General Programing 9:00AM
CSPAN2-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**09:00:03 AM**] UNDERSTOOD. WE'LL COME BACK TO YOU. **SENATOR WARNER**, I KNOW, HAS TO LEAVE FOR OTHER PRESSING BUSINESS AND **SENATOR COLLINS** AND I ARE GOING YIELD TO HIM FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF QUESTIONING. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. I THANK **SENATOR COLLINS**. I APPRECIATE WE DISCUSSED O THE FLOOR THE DESIRE OF YOU AND **SENATOR COLLINS** TO HAVE THIS VERY IMPORTANT HEARING, AND I'M PLEASED TO HAVE ATTENDED. AND I COMMEND YOU, AND I THINK WE'VE DRAWN ON A VERY DISTINGUISHED PANEL TO HELP NICHE INITIATE OUR STUDY. WE BEAR IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION RESTS WITH THE GOVERNORS, THE STATE LEGISLATURES OF OUR 50 STATES AND TERRITORIES, AND WE MUST BE CAREFUL THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT.



4. APR 24 2007 9:00AM ET

General Programing 9:00AM
CSPAN2-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**09:06:25 AM**] TO TALK ABOUT INDIVIDUALS. TO TALK ABOUT INDIVIDUALS THAT THEY BELIEVE FORGED THROUGH WHATEVER AVENUE THAN PERMISSION TIMES KNOWN THAT PRESENTS A THREAT I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A STRUCTURE FOR THAT A BEST PRACTICE THE WE CAN THEN RECOMMEND TO INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE I THINK THAT YOU WILL SEE DIFFERENT APPROACHES EVERY SINGLE INSTITUTION THERE IS NOT A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED OR BEST PRACTICE THAT YOU WILL FIND ACROSS AN INSTITUTION. THANK YOU MY TIME IS UP ON THIS ROUND, **SENATOR COLLINS**. PRESIDENT WEAPONED, LET ME PICK UP ON THE POINT THIS **SENATOR LIEBERMAN** WAS JUST MAKING ABOUT COMMUNICATING INFORMATION ABOUT TROUBLED STUDENTS. YOU HAVE A VERY UNUSUAL BACKGROUND FOR A COLLEGE PRESIDENT, IN FACT, I WONDER IF YOU ARE UNIQUE IN THE COUNTRY OF HAVING BEEN A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO WENT ON TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR WHO WENT ON TO BE A COLLEGE PRESIDENT. ... **SENATOR COLLINS**, YOU HAVE TOUCHED ON ISSUES THAT KEEP MANY OF US AWAKE AT NIGHT. IT IS KNOWING WHEN TO ACT, AT WHAT POINT IN TIME, WHERE DO YOU GO TO GET RELIEF? IT TAKES MORE IT THAN JUST SEEN A STUDENT WHO IS DIFFERENT OR A STUDENT WHO IS ON, OR ALONG TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE STUDENT AMPLE THE ANSWER NOW. ... **SENATOR COLLINS**, I AM INTERESTED IN THE EFFECT OF FEDERAL LAW GENERALLY ON WHAT YOU CAN DO ON A COLLEGE CAMPUSES TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY. IN THE CASE THAT YOU DESCRIBE WHERE YOU HAVE A PROCEDURE AT YOU THE DAY WHERE THE DENTYNE CAN'T INITIATE SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS AND IF I HEARD YOU CORRECTLY REQUIRES SOME KIND OF PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION, THAT IS DONE IT WITHOUT A COURT ORDER. I PRESUME?



5. APR 24 2007 8:30AM ET

General Programing 8:30AM
CSPAN2-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**08:47:00 AM**] DOCTOR, WE WELCOME YOUR TESTIMONY NOW. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. CHAIRMAN. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR COLLINS AND SENATOR WARNER. THANK YOU, REALLY, ON BEHALF OF A LOT OF AMERICANS WHO ARE DEPENDING ON THIS KIND OF LEADERSHIP TO DEMONSTRATE HOW CONCERNED THE COUNTRY IS OFFICIALLY ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED LIKE THAT IN VIRGINIA LAST WEEK. AND I'M SURE THAT IS THE COLLECTIVE HOPE OF THIS ENTIRE PANEL THAT WE ARE PROVIDING YOU WITH SOME INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES THAT MAY HELP YOU MEET SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WILL HELP MAKE U.S. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND SCHOOLS IN GENERAL TO BE AS SAFE AND SECURE AS POSSIBLE.



6. APR 24 2007 8:00AM ET

General Programing 8:00AM

CSPAN2-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**08:04:36 AM**] AND OF REAL INTEREST TO SUGGESTION THAT BEFORE BEING A COLLEGE PRESIDENT, WHICH MR. WEBB HAS BEEN FOR 20 YEARS, HE WAS THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA AND A MEMBER OF THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL. THANKS VERY MUCH FOR BEING HERE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR TESTIMONY. THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN LIEBERMAN AND RANKING MEMBER SENATOR COLLINS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR OPENING STATEMENTS WHICH VERY WELL, I THINK, SET OUT ISSUES THAT WE FACE TODAY. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT AN EXPERIENCE THAT I HAD JUST LAST FRIDAY WHICH DROVE HOME TO ME THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE ISSUES. I WAS WALKING ACROSS OUR CAMPUS AND I RAN INTO A CAMPUS TOUR OF APPROXIMATELY 25 STUDENTS, MANY OF THEM WITH PARENTS. ... AND FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN AND SENATOR COLLINS, LET ME SAY TO YOU, I ASSURE YOU THAT EVERY COLLEGE, EVERY UNIVERSITY IN AMERICA APPRECIATE AND EVERY NARNT AMERICA WILL APPRECIATE ANY HELP, ANY ASSISTANCE, ANY GUIDANCE THAT THIS COMMITTEE CAN PROVIDE US. ... THANK YOU, AND GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATOR COLLINS. AS YOU MENTIONED, I AM THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CAMPUS LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATORS, AN ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENT IT IS CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY EXECUTIVES AT 1100 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MORE THAN 1800 MEMBERS. I AM ALSO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY. ... IN SUMMARY, MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATOR COLLINS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ADEQUATELY PROTECTING OUR NATION'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RELIES ON IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIPS. THERE ARE VERY CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP THAT IS WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND NURTURE ON OUR CAMPUSES AND WITH OUR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARTNERS. THESE PARTNERSHIPS ARE



7. APR 24 2007 7:30AM ET

General Programing 7:30AM

CSPAN2-CABLE, NATIONAL

[**07:47:16 AM**] IN SHORT, WE ARE HERE TO BEGIN A DISCUSSION AFTER VIRGINIA TECH TO MAKEURE THAT TOGETHER WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY CAN TO PREVENT ANY OTHER CAMPUS AND ANY OTHER STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM EXPERIENCING THE NIGHTMARE AND LOSS VIRGINIA TECH EXPERIENCED LAST MONDAY. I THANK THE WITNESSES WHO HAVE COME HERE ON SHORT NOTICE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR TESTIMONY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THEIR CONSIDERABLE AND RELEVANT EXPERIENCE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO THIS COMMITTEE. SENATOR COLLINS. THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN. MR. CHAIRMAN, AS YOU MENTIONED, OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO THOSE WHO DIED OR WERE WOUNDED OR WHO LOST FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS IN THAT TERRIBLE CAMPUS ATTACK OF A WEEK AGO. ... THANKS VERY MUCH, SENATOR COLLINS. WE'LL GO TO THE PANEL OF WITNESSES. NOW AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR COMING ON RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE.



8. APR 24 2007 8:00AM ET

News

WXIX-FOX, CINCINNATI, OH

[**00:10:48**] VA TECH BACK TO CLASS. V: MEMORIAL. I: LASHAUN KING, VT GRADUATE STUDENT. ... I: SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS.



9. APR 24 2007 7:00AM ET

News

WXIX-FOX, CINCINNATI, OH

[**00:36:14**] VA TECH CLASSES RESUME. I: UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN. V: MEMORIAL. ... V: SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SPEAKING.



10. APR 24 2007 6:00PM ET

NEWS 13 AT 6

WGME-CBS, PORTLAND-AUBURN, ME

[**05:58:10 PM**] AND STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WILL ALL BE HERE- PEOPLE FROM FEMA- AS WELL AS THE STATE'S POLITICAL HEAVY- HITTERS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, SENATORS OLYMPIA SNOWE AND SUSAN COLLINS, AND CONGRESSMAN TOM ALLEN. WE'LL BE THERE AS WELL- AND WE'LL HAVE IT ALL FOR YOU ON NEWS 13 ON FOX AT 10, AND ON NEWS 13 AT 11.



11. APR 24 2007 5:00PM ET

NEWS 13 AT 5

WGME-CBS, PORTLAND-AUBURN, ME

[**05:02:17 PM**] AND STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WILL ALL BE HERE- PEOPLE FROM FEMA- AS WELL AS THE STATE'S POLITICAL HEAVY- HITTERS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, SENATORS OLYMPIA SNOWE AND SUSAN COLLINS, AND CONGRESSMAN TOM ALLEN. WE'LL BE THERE AS WELL- AND WE'LL HAVE IT ALL FOR YOU ON NEWS 13

LICENSE TO FISH BT 4/25/07

Catching fish in Maine's fresh water has long required a license, but fishing in salt water does not. LD 1811 would eliminate this arbitrary discrepancy while ensuring the state's anglers meet new federal requirements. It will also give researchers more money and data to assess the condition of ocean species sought by commercial fishermen.

Last year, Congress passed a new version of the nation's fisheries law, known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Because federal regulators have incomplete information on how many fish are caught by recreational fishermen, the revised act requires a federal registry of ocean anglers by 2009. A federal license, which is expected to cost around \$30, would be required in 2011 if a state registry or licensing system is not already in place.

The lack of data on recreational saltwater fishing also opens up federal regulators to charges from commercial fishermen that they are being unfairly targeted with cuts in days at sea and other restrictions while recreational anglers, who also contribute to stock declines, face few restrictions.

Opponents of LD 1811, including many fishermen and guides, argue that a license and the accompanying \$15 annual fee for in-state fishermen, is tantamount to taking away a freedom.

Saltwater fish, just like their freshwater counterparts, are a public resource. A license to catch them, just like a license to hook a trout or shoot a deer, is reasonable.

Concerns also have been raised that the \$250 annual fee for charter boats and \$500 for head boats is too high. Fishing boat captains make their living from a public resource. Charging a fee, which is likely to be passed on to customers, for this opportunity is the norm in resource-extraction industries. Further, the fee negates the need for each charter boat client to have his own license, streamlining the process.

The money from the license fee, which is \$30 a year or \$15 for two weeks for nonresidents, would be set aside for marine resources. It could be used for fisheries management research, habitat enhancement, land purchases and law enforcement, all areas where the state has been short of funds, often to the detriment of fishermen, both recreational and commercial. If the state does nothing and the federal registry goes into effect in Maine, the money collected by the federal government likely won't be spent on Maine needs.

New licenses and fees are always unpopular. A saltwater fishing license, however, makes sense, especially in light of the new federal requirements, and is overdue.